scribed as analogous to the metropolitan roads commission; the body to be called the trustees for the consolidation and completion of works of drainage, water supply, paving, and cleansing in the metropolis.

The Bill of Mr. Mowatt and others, on the other hand, proposes to place the water supply under the control of a representative body of commissioners, chosen by the ratepayers, four out of each of seventeen districts into which the metropolis would be divided, besides four out of the city, and four appointed by the Government, as a general commission for the whole metropolis; these to appoint a paid executive of five, with a secretary,—one of the five to be nominated by the Government. No source of supply has been fixed by this Bill, that being left as a moot point for the decision of the proposed commissioners, with power to adopt new sources if desirable. A clause of the Bill authorises the dissolution of the present companies, or any one or more of them, on purchase of their undertakings at a rate not exceeding ten years' amount of their net annual income.

A new "Metropolitan Soft Water Contracting Company," provisionally registered in November last, has had a survey made of the numerous exhaustless springs and affluents in the neighbourhood of Farnham, as pointed out by the Board of Health, Hon. William Napier, Mr. Rammell, Mr. Simon, and the company's engineer, Mr. Bateman. It is confidently asserted that one-half the present supply is wasted through the intermittent system, which would be avoided by the company's proposed plan of having the mains always charged at high service without extra cost to the consumer—a plan instantly available in case of fire, and which would supersede the use of all cisterns, water-butts, &c., and secure health, cleanliness, and economy.

THE WESTMINSTER BRIDGE COMMISSION.

It is with no small anxiety that the determination of the commission is looked for, more particularly as a rumour is afloat that it may possibly end in the change of site to the north of Richmond-terrace. It is certainly to be expected, before such a deterioration of property is agreed upon, that the parties interested should be heard. In the first place stand the occupiers of Richmond-terrace: this was planned and constructed, with a view to privacy, about twenty-one years ago, and resorted to at enormous rents, mainly in consequence of this great and rare advantage, the Crown benefiting by an annual ground-rent of about 1,000*l.* per annum. Now, supposing the traffic of the bridge to pass under the windows of these houses, surely the owners and occupiers will have just ground for compensation. The next for consideration are the owners and occupiers of houses in Parliament-street, many being tenants of the Westminster Bridge commissioners. Have they no right to be heard? If the valuable traffic is taken from them, are they not entitled to compensation? Then, again, look at the destruction to property on the Surrey side of the bridge. The present highway has been in existence upwards of 100 years: great interests have grown up in the course of this lengthened period; and are these all to be lost sight of and destroyed to favour a pet scheme of some one behind the scenes? Looking through the several reports of committees of the House of Commons, it seems to be almost the unanimous opinion of the eminent men examined before them, that the present site is the best that could be selected; and if removed, it should be as near to the present as circumstances would permit. Mr. Rendel speaks of the present site as the best that could be found. Mr. Cubitt (president of Civil Engineers) would take it a little to the north, removing that side of Bridge-street (the removal of the south side being requisite to complete the quadrangle of New Palace-yard). Mr. Rennie would select the south of the Board of Control, and thus make way for opening another street as an approach to Belgravia, and relieving Great George-street of the traffic. Others follow much in the same view: indeed, except the plans of Messrs. Page and Pennethorne, none contemplate so great a change as that now talked of. If the Government is prepared to compensate parties who will thus be injured, be it so; but when there is little to be hoped for on that head, surely those likely to be injured at least have a right to be heard.

It may be very convenient for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to nominate a commission, but it is quite another question whether the commission so appointed is to supersede the labours of all committees who have had the matter under consideration with power ample for all purposes of inquiry. But there is still another objection: the country is now building at an enormous cost the new Houses of Parliament. Of what advantage will be all this elaborate detail should there be no place from which it can be viewed? But if the deck of a passing steam-boat is the only point from which it may be seen (not examined) it will be justly considered a wasteful extravagance. The general detail of the inner court would have been all-sufficient, and far better adapted for view from the distant opposite shore, and nearer than that it cannot be approached if the north of Richmond-terrace is to be adopted. There appeared some time since in your journal a plan for carrying the bridge across to the north of the Board of Control, thereby affording sufficient space for a row of houses as a screen to the rear of Richmond-terrace, and thus affording, at some future time, an opportunity for another approach to Belgravia by widening Charles-street, with an entrance into St. James's-park. Either this or the schemes before mentioned would preserve the value of the property in the neighbourhood of the Houses of Parliament, and afford all the advantages that could be desired; whilst the removal of the bridge to Whitehall would seriously damage all the surrounding property without a single compensating benefit.

A. Z.

ARTISTICAL AND OTHER INTELLIGENCE FROM ABROAD.

Restoration and Re-opening of the Musée du Louvre.—This huge art-collection, founded since 1793 by a decree of the National Convention, has, after an interval of two years, been again opened to the public, much improved and embellished. The small saloon at the entrance is now occupied by the collection of goldsmiths' work, which is placed in oak depositories against a hanging of crimson velvet. The great square saloon is much admired, and is occupied by the master-pieces of painters of all schools. The walls consist of leather, painted brown and gold. Below is a border of ebony, and the frieze and dome are adorned by sculpture, painted grey and gold. The Gallery of Apollo presents a surprising aspect, which will be increased by paintings to be executed by M. Delacroix. The gallery containing the Flemish and Italian schools have been lighted from the top, and a new classification of the works has been adopted, being that of M. Jeanron, to whom also most of the other improvements are due. Some of the Paris papers state, that the restorations and improvements made during the last two years in the Louvre, are more extensive and important than all those made during the previous twenty years.

Rome.—Sculptures for the Cathedral of Caracas.—M. Tenerani, the sculptor, has just completed a statue of Bolivar for his monument, to be erected in the Cathedral of Caracas. The *Liberador* is represented in a standing position, a cloak gracefully thrown over his breast, his left hand grasping a wreath of laurel. The basso-relievo, which will be placed on the pedestal, represents the three republics, Peru, Bolivia, and Columbia, emblematised with much fancy and skill. Two statues, the *Giustizia* and the *Liberalità*,—the latter pouring gold coin out of a vessel, will be placed beside the monument, as indicating the chief virtues of the departed states'-founder.

Professor Carl Ritter has just completed an interesting work, "Hebron, the City of the Patriarchs" (*Die Stadt der Erzväter*). The Arabs designate it by the name of El-Khalîb, and it has much attracted the notice of tourists. Its destruction by Ibrahim Pacha in 1837 has deprived it of many of its antiquities. The citadel, most probably the Castellum or Præsidium Sancti Abrahami of the Crusaders, in which King Baldwin sojourned in the year 1100, before and after his expedition to the Villa Pakuæum, south of the Dead Sea, and which was, without doubt, a Roman building, has also perished by earthquakes, especially that of 1st January, 1837.

Versailles Palace.—The Minister of the Interior has demanded a grant for repairing this château, some reparations relating to constructions of a very recent date, such as the ceiling of the Salle of 1830. The pictures also of the upper stories are endangered by the want of ventilation, caused by the heat of summer. The *Orangerie*, considered by the French as one of the finest architectural works of the kind, is much damaged in its vaulted ceiling and the staircases leading to it from the town. M. Kestel is the architect intrusted with the conservation of the palace and water-works of Versailles.

The Church of Ste. Sulpice, at Paris, has been ornamented by a statue of M. Droz representing a novel emblem of religion—the Angel of Martyrdom. It stands opposite a statue of M. Derbœuf, and completes the series of sculpture placed around the choir of that fine edifice.

Co-operative Might.—The Protestant Church at Rosenberg, in Upper Silesia, is to be constructed by subscriptions of one *pfennig*, rather less than a *half*-farthing English. Of the three millions of pfenniga thus required, 1,919,000 have been already raised, and the foundation of the church laid on the 5th of May.

Travelling Grants to Students of Architecture in Austria.—The Austrian Government have granted to M. G. D. Malvesir, pupil of the Academy of Fine Arts of Venice, a sum of 2,400 Liv. Austr. for three years, as well as travelling expenses, for his improvement in the study of architecture at Rome. Two more grants of a smaller amount have been made to other pupils of the same art-academy.

Professor Rauch.—Besides the honour and distinctions awarded to the sculptor of the statue of Frederic the Great generally known, an address of the common council of the city of Berlin is to be especially quoted:—"We acknowledge the genius with which you have seized the idea of the great man to be monumented, and thus produced a memorial for the admiration and mind-elevation (*geistigen Erhebung*) of present and future generations. In thanking you for this ornament of our city, we feel much pleasure in associating your name with those honourable men, whose great and distinguished merits for our country and city will be always dear to us." Amongst the other tokens to the deserving artist is a laurel-crown sent from Weimar, and taken from the same tree from which that for Goethe had been once gathered.

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF DESIGN.

The annual meeting of this important institution was held on Friday in last week, Mr. W. Entwistle in the chair. Mr. John Potter, the mayor of Manchester, Rev. C. Richson, M.A., and various other gentlemen were on the platform. Dr. C. Bell read the usual report.

The treasurer's account, read by Mr. Gregan, showed that the income of the school had consisted of 600*l.* Government grant, 293*l.* 19s. donations, 221*l.* fourteen students' fees, 74*l.* 11s. fees for private classes, 30*l.* 9s. fees from life classes; a balance being left due to the treasurer of 399*l.* 14s. 7d. On the other side of the account, it showed a balance due to the treasurer in the previous report of 227*l.* 17s. 1d.; salaries and fees of masters, 582*l.* 5s. 6d.; rent, 195*l.*; joiners' work, gas fitting, &c., 233*l.* 4s. 3d., and other smaller items; making altogether an expenditure of 1,737*l.* 12s. 7d.

The chairman addressed the meeting, and so too did the mayor.

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